

Spring Quarter, 2002
Political Science 516
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Judicial Politics

This course will center on an analysis of the judicial process in America with a special emphasis on courts as policy-making bodies. Our major focus will be on the federal judicial system with a special emphasis on appellate courts, most specifically the U.S. Supreme Court. Some consideration, however, and a significant amount of reading, will be focused on lower courts and state and local courts.

There will be two examinations in the course weighted approximately as follows:

First exam - 40%
Final exam - 60%

The format of the exams will be arrived at in consultation with the class. The final exam, however, will be comprehensive, and students will be held responsible for all reading assignments whether discussed in class or not. No "Post-hoc" makeup examinations will be given except under extraordinary circumstances. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 688-3804.

The required books for the course are:

Lawrence Baum, The Supreme Court, 7th edition (hereafter cited as TEXT)
Elliot Slotnick, Judicial Politics: Readings from Judicature, Second Edition (hereafter cited as READER*)

SYLLABUS

- I. Introduction: American Courts as Political Institutions
TEXT: pp. 1-6, 23-28, 194-202
READER: pp. 1-40, 591-643
- II. Structure of the American Judiciary
TEXT: pp. 6-13
- III. Actors in the Judicial Process
 - A. Judges and Judicial Selection
TEXT: pp. 14-23, 31-77, 216-219
READER: pp. 41-84, 89-118, 210-220, 239-243, 479-511
 - B. First Examination (40% of grade)
 - C. Lawyers
TEXT: pp. 86-89
READER: pp. 119-139
 - D. Litigants and Interest Groups

TEXT: pp. 82-85, 89-102, 174-175
READER: pp. 140-170, 581-590

E. Juries
READER: pp. 171-209

IV. Trial Courts and Criminal Justice Processes
READER: pp. 244-289

V. Appellate Court Processes

A. Access and Docketing Decisions
TEXT: pp. 81-82, 102-123, 185-194
READER: pp. 290-346

B. Internal Court Processes and Decisions on the Merits
TEXT: pp. 128-179
READER: pp. 85-88, 230-238, 347-425

VI. The Courts and Their Publics

A. Public Opinion and the Media
TEXT: pp. 169-174
READER: pp. 221-229, 426-476

B. Congress and the Presidency
TEXT: pp. 175-179, 241-251
READER: pp. 479-524

C. States and State Courts
TEXT: pp. 251-253
READER: pp. 525-551

I. Judicial Impact
TEXT: pp. 222-267

VIII. Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution
READER: pp. 552-590

IX. Judicial Policy-Making and Judicial Independence in the United States
TEXT: pp. 203-219
READER: pp. 591-643

X. FINAL EXAMINATION (60% of grade)